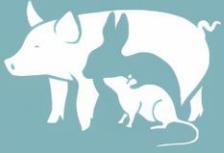


PRECLINICAL  
TRIALS.EU



# Preclinicaltrials.eu & data sharing



Ottawa's webinar, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022  
Julia Menon, Daily Director of Preclinicaltrials.eu



## Introduction

- Daily director [preclinicaltrials.eu](https://preclinicaltrials.eu)
- Research fellow ZonMw
- PROSPERO administrator
- Systematic reviews section editor Laboratory Animals
- Board member Young TPI





## Conflict of interest

- I declare no conflict of interest





## Outline

I-Problems in animal research

II-Preregistration: what is it?

III-Preregistration benefits  
& [Preclinicaltrials.eu](https://www.preclinicaltrials.eu)





# Problems in animal research

How can we improve?



# Problems in animal research

**Vox** TOPICS - TRENDING

IS THERE A REPRODUCIBILITY CRISIS?

7% Don't know    52% Yes, a significant crisis

3% No, there is no crisis

1,576 researchers surveyed

Too many mice are sacrificed for seriously flawed studies

- Validity of animal models
- Lack of proper methods
- Lack of proper reporting
- Lack of data accessibility

SCIENTIFIC REGRESS: Big Science is broken

GOES WRONG.

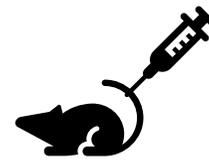
Cancer Research Is Broken



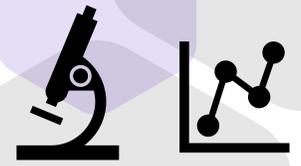
# Threats to internal



Selection Bias



Performance bias



Detection bias

Experimental group



Bias = system

VS

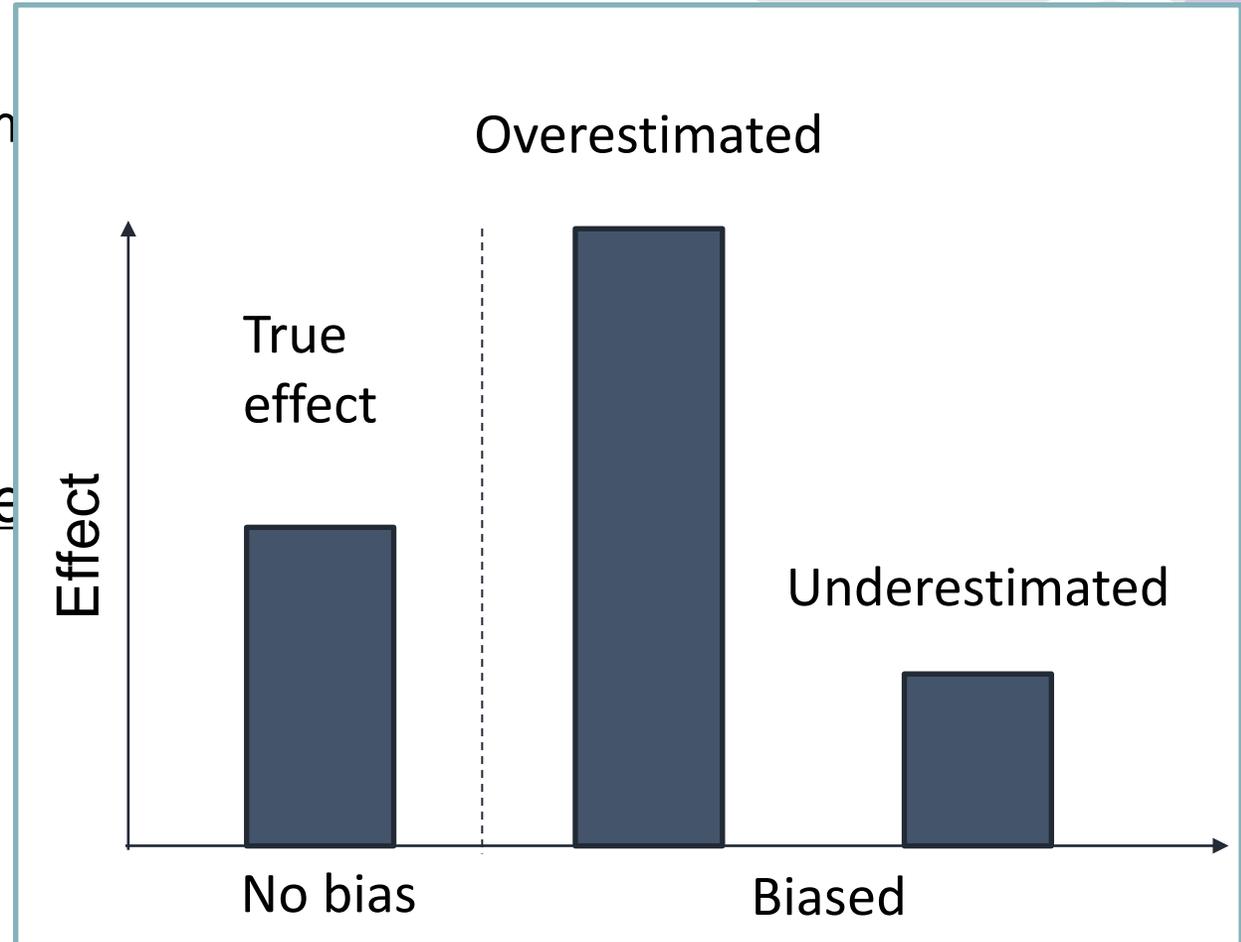
Difference

Treatment

Results

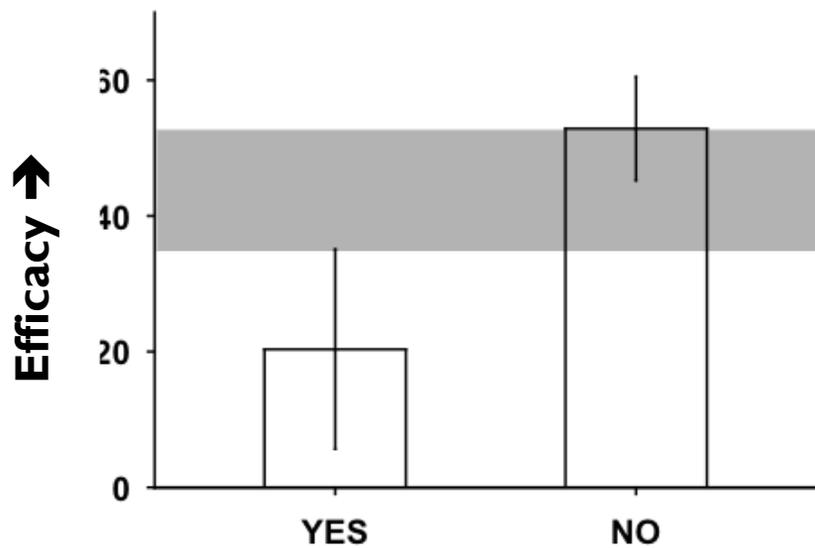
Noise  
External factors

Unreliable results

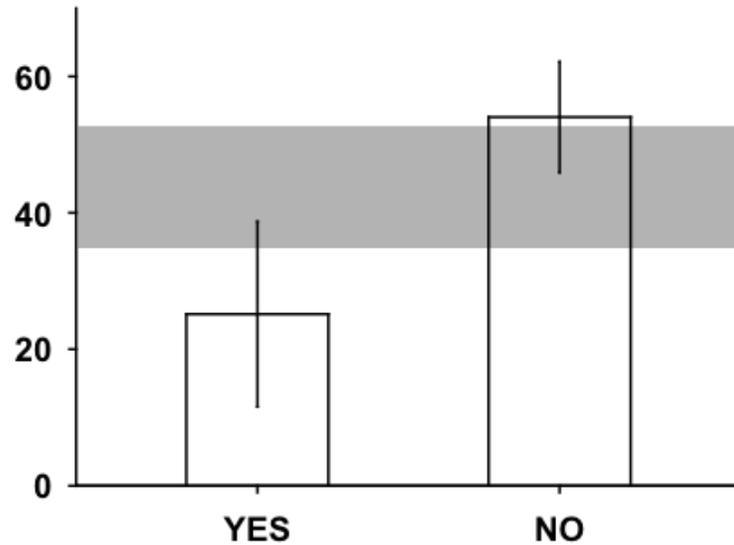




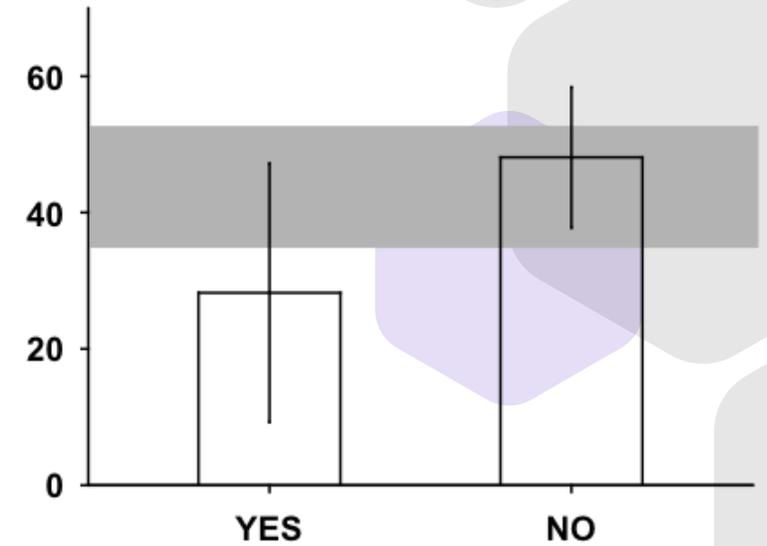
## Threats to internal validity



**Randomisation**



**Blinded conduct  
of experiment**



**Blinded assessment  
of outcome**



# Selective outcomes reporting & publication bias



- Higher chances for positive/significant results to be published.
- Difference in likelihood to publish between studies due to study characteristics or results.
- Prevent to have a full (realistic) overview of evidence.



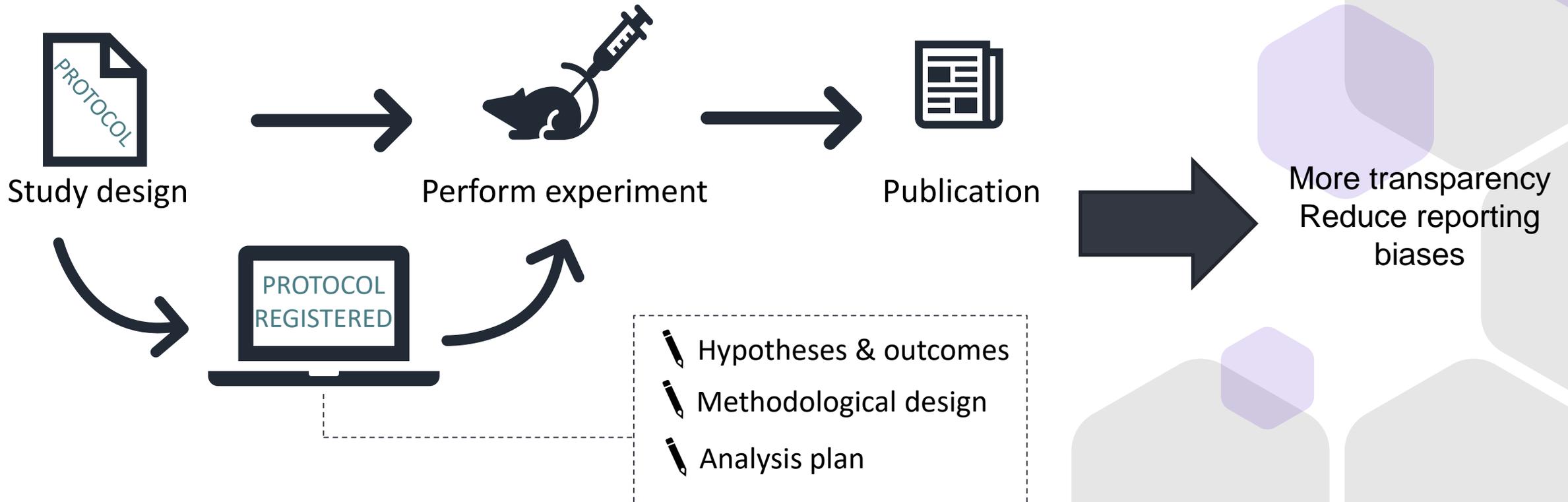
# Preregistration of animal studies

What is it?



# Preregistration

- **Preregistration** is the act of **registering research protocols before** conducting the experiments.





## Registered Reports

### Preregistration

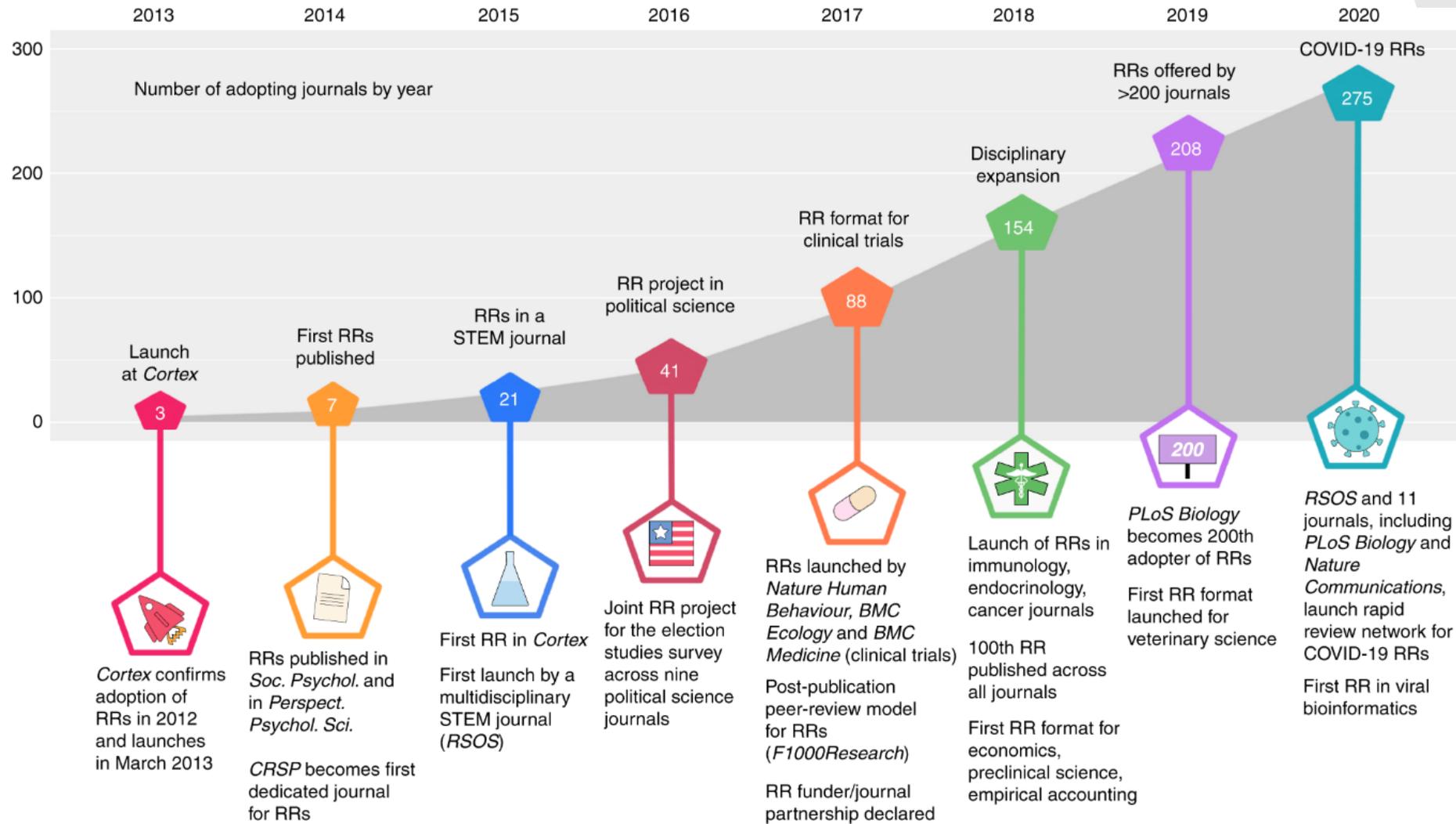


### Registered Reports





# Evolution of the registered reports





## “Simple” preregistration vs Registered reports

### Preregistration

- Fast and easy
- Can be flexible
- Accessible to all
- Does not ensure publication

VS

### Registered reports

- Longer process, less accessible
- Stricter
- Accessible only after publication
- In principle acceptance

Preregistration

Registered reports



# Clinicaltrials.gov and clinical registries

Largest clinical registry  
~ 410,000 records from 220 countries

**1997:** FDA act requests a registry

**2000:** Clinicaltrials.gov is online

**2005:** International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)  
required preregistration

**2008-2009:** reporting outcomes and adverse effects

International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) from WHO

Clinicaltrials.gov

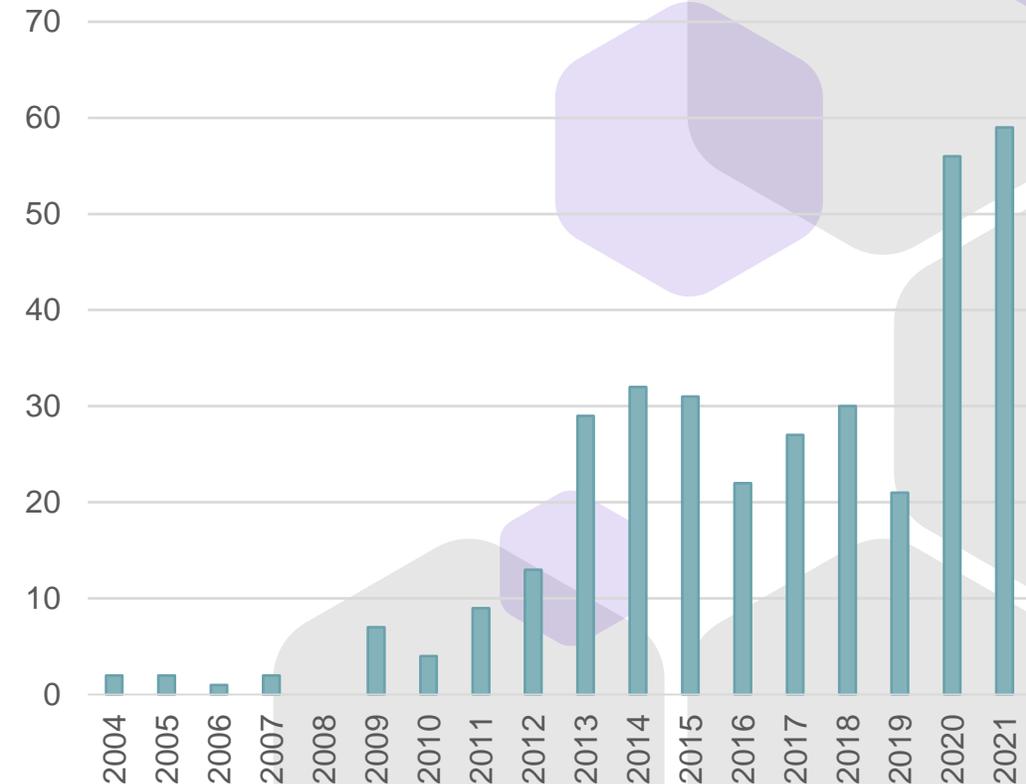
EU clinical trial register

Netherlands National trial register

ISRCTN.org

...

Hits on PubMed per year for  
Clinicaltrials.gov





## (Pre)registration of animal studies

- Only 2 registries tailored to animal studies:
  - Preclinicaltrials.eu (*Dutch; held by the Netherlands Heart Institute*) -2018
  - Animal Study Registry (*German; held by the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals*) - 2019
- General registry, e.g. Open Science Framework (*American; held by the Center for Open Science*) - 2011

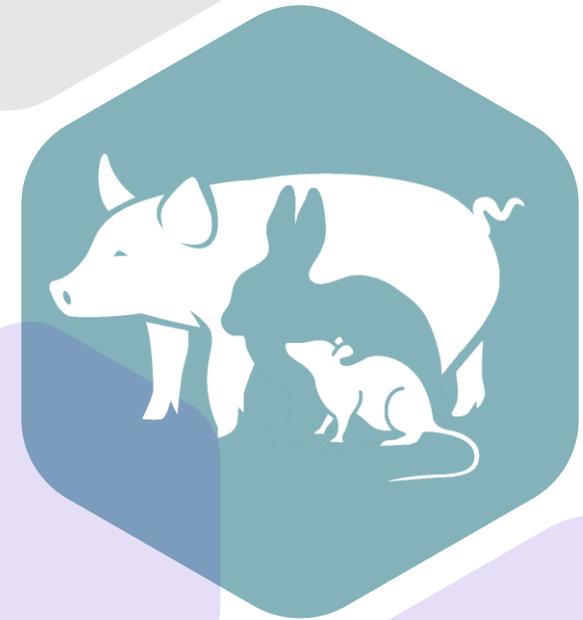


## Poll n°1

Have you ever preregistered a protocol before?

- A) Yes
- B) No, but I thought about it
- C) No, because I don't know how to do it
- D) No

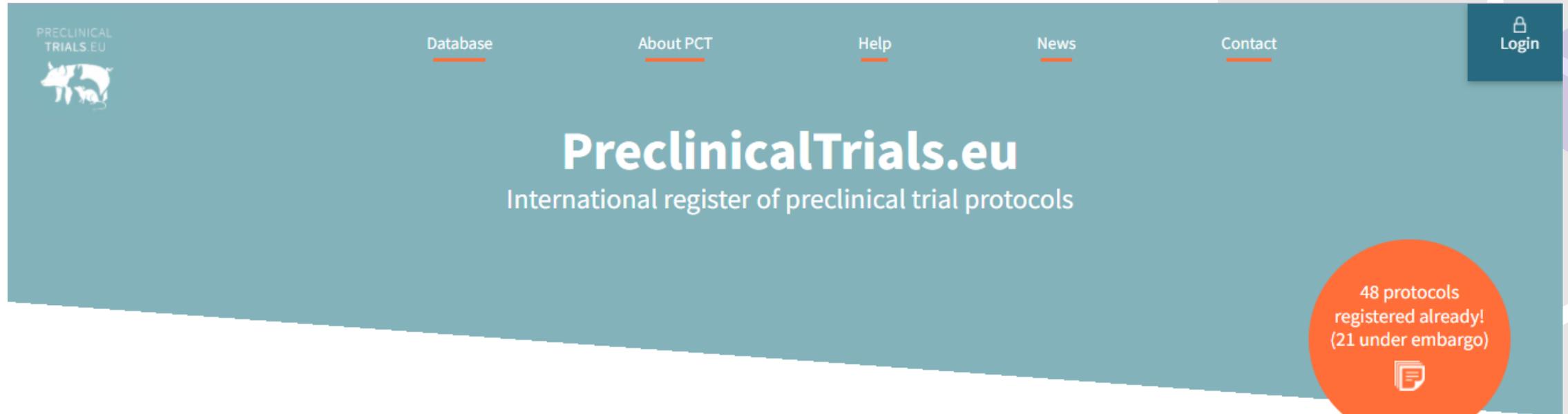




# Preregistration benefits & Preclinicaltrials.eu



# Preclinicaltrials.eu



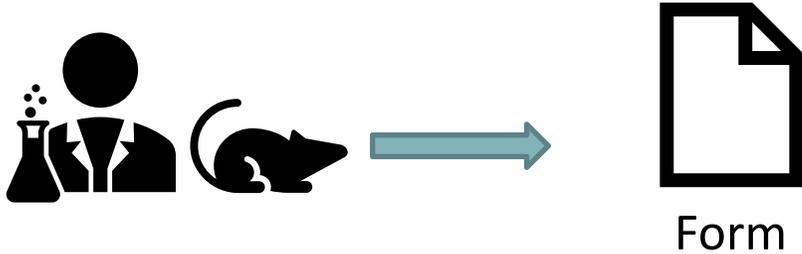
Preclinicaltrials aims to provide a comprehensive listing of preclinical animal study protocols. Preferably registered at inception in order to increase transparency, help avoid duplication, and reduce the risk of reporting bias by enabling comparison of the completed study with what was planned in the protocol. Registration of your study requires you to create an account that is:

- Anonymous
- Free of charge





# Benefits of preregistration



- Form focuses on experimental design
- Compliant with ARRIVE essential 10

1. General      **2. Study design**      3. Contact details      4. Submit

Register your study by completing the following form. Notice that the fields with an asterisk are mandatory, whereas other fields are optional. Once the form is submitted it will be checked before publication on this website. Changes made after publication on this site will be recorded with an audit trail.

**SAVE CHANGES**      **IMPORT PRIS (.JSON)**      **CLEAR FIELDS**

**Research field\***  
To what research field does this study relate? (e.g. cardiology, oncology, neuroscience)

**Hypothesis / Research question\***  
Give the research question/hypothesis or problem the study investigates and state clearly why it is important to carry out this study

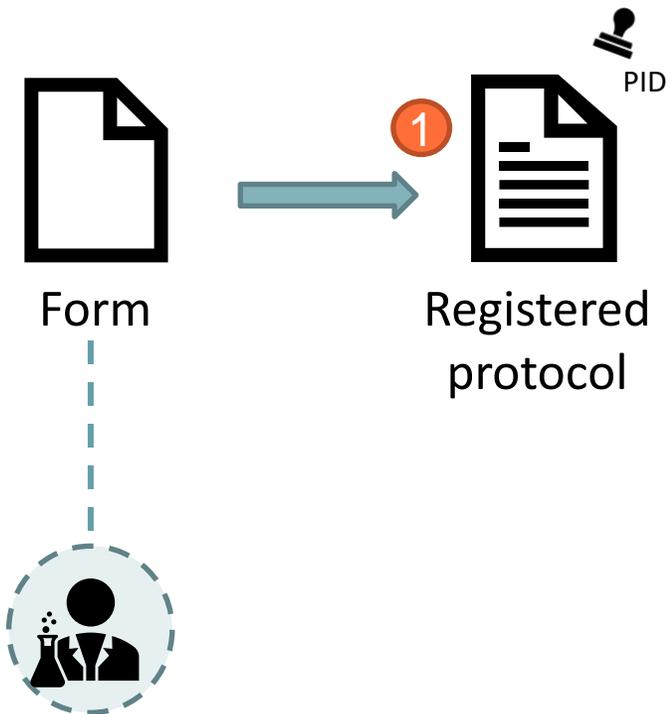
**In case of intervention, Intervention type\***  
What type of intervention is being tested in the study?

Select option ▼

**Primary readout parameter\***  
What is the primary readout parameter of the study? Please clarify what will be measured, how this will be measured and at what timepoint (e.g. efficacy based on Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction after 4 weeks).



# Benefits of preregistration



1

- Increase transparency
- Promote robust study design & reporting



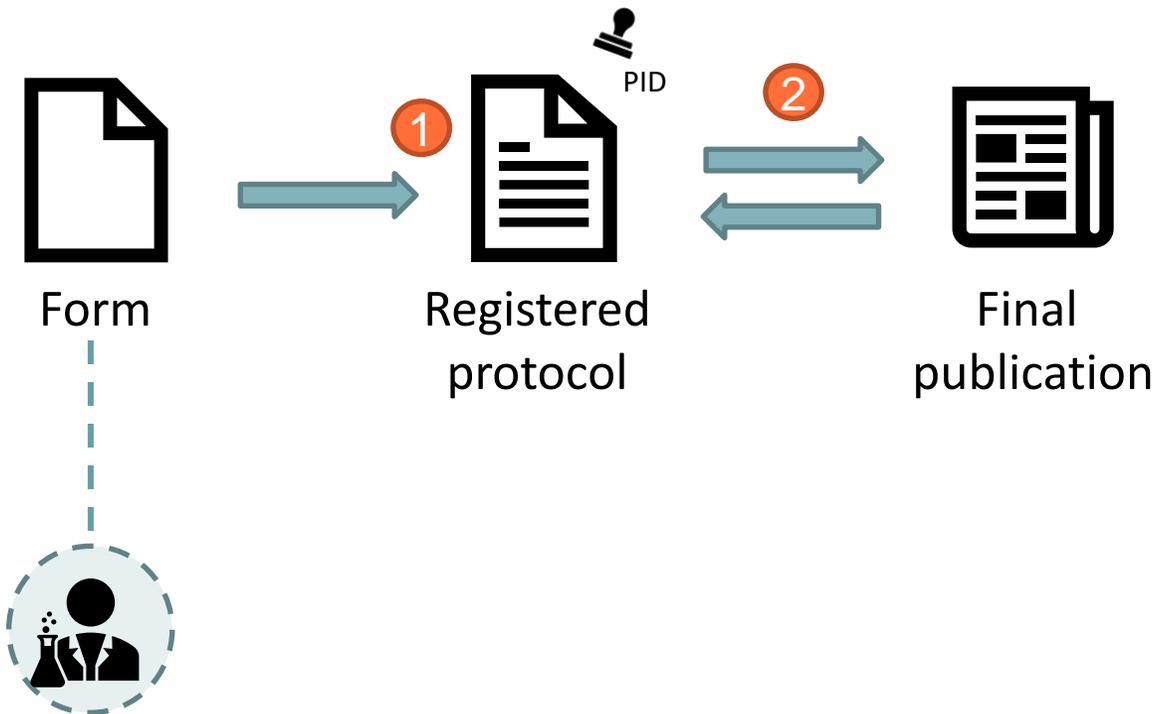
## Benefits of preregistration

- Increase transparency
  - ◊ All study protocols and their content are available online
  - ◊ Provide a persistent identifier
- Promote robust study design
  - Demand information on blinding, randomisation, sample size calculation





# Benefits of preregistration



1

 Increase transparency

 Promote robust study design & reporting

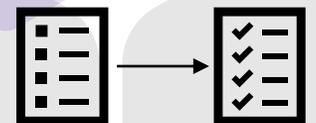
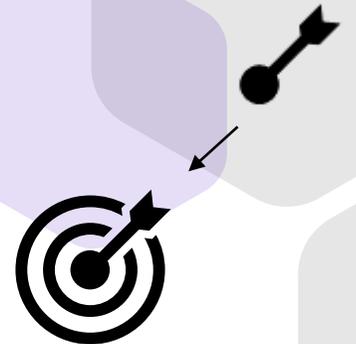
2

 Reduce reporting bias & malpractice



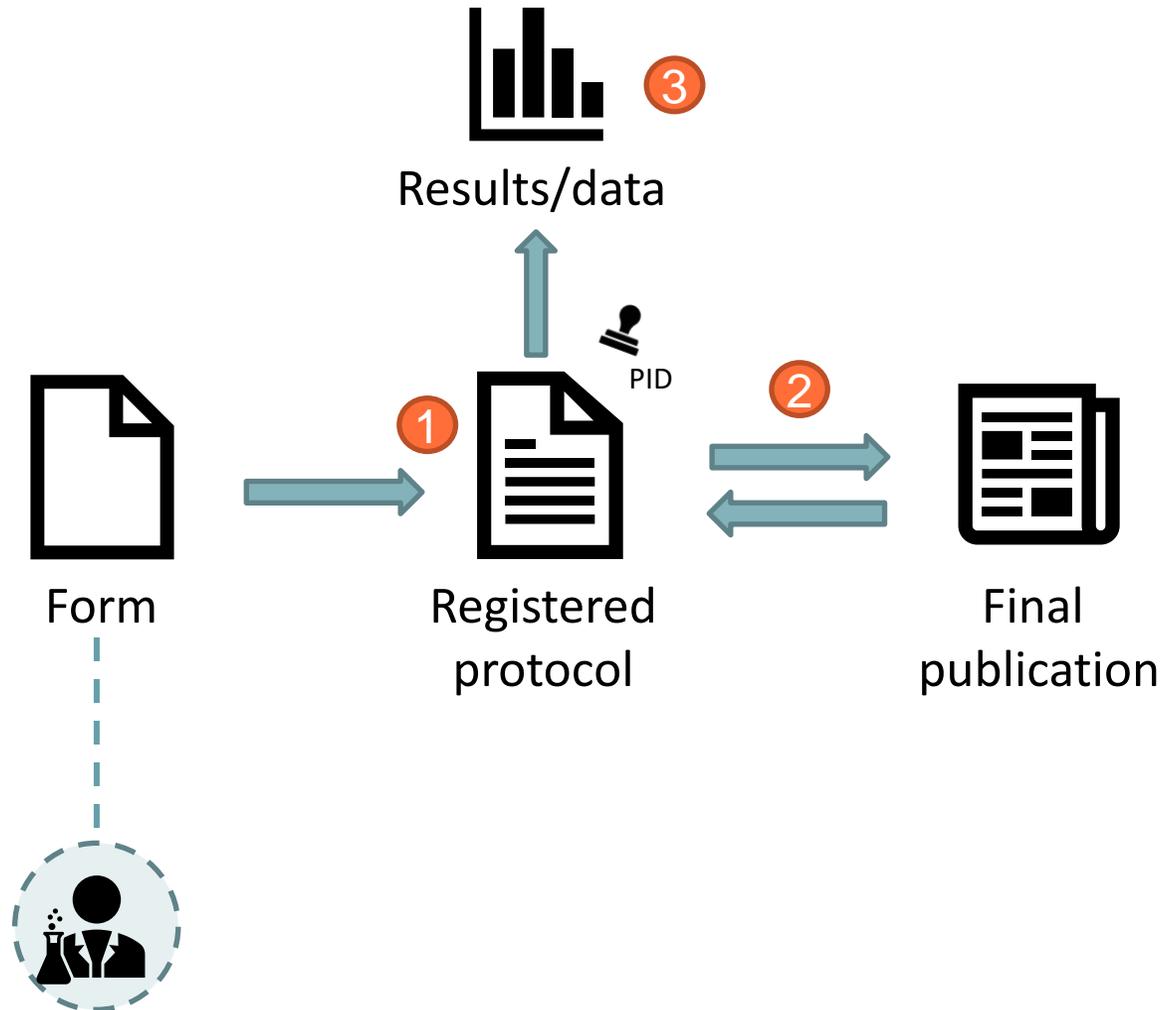
## Benefits of preregistration

- Decrease reporting bias
  - Selective outcomes reporting
- Decrease malpractice
  - Prevent HARKing
  - Prevent P-hacking
- Increase reliability





# Benefits of preregistration



1

Increase transparency

2

Promote robust study design & reporting

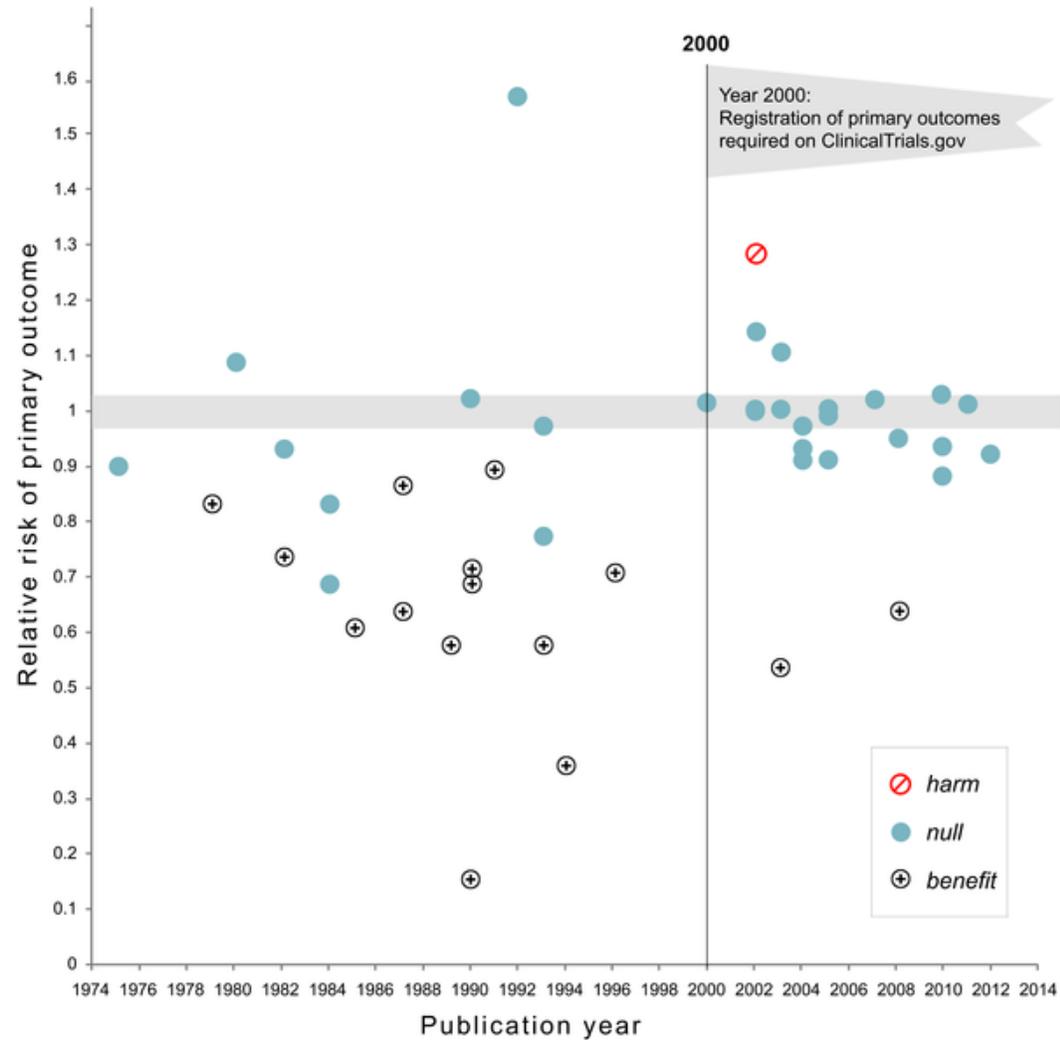
3

Reduce reporting bias & malpractice

Reduce publication bias

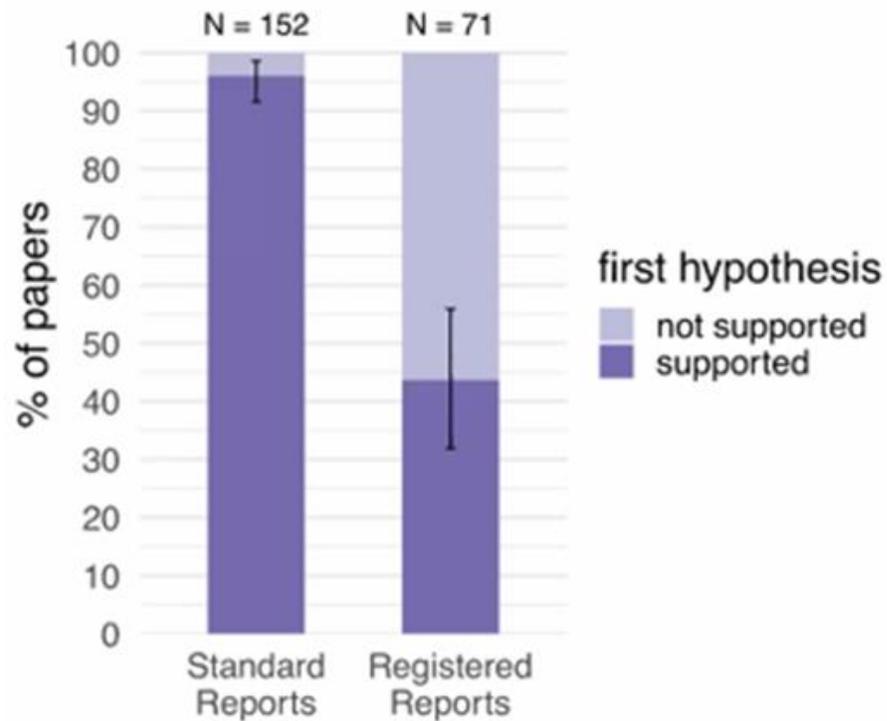


# Benefits of preregistration

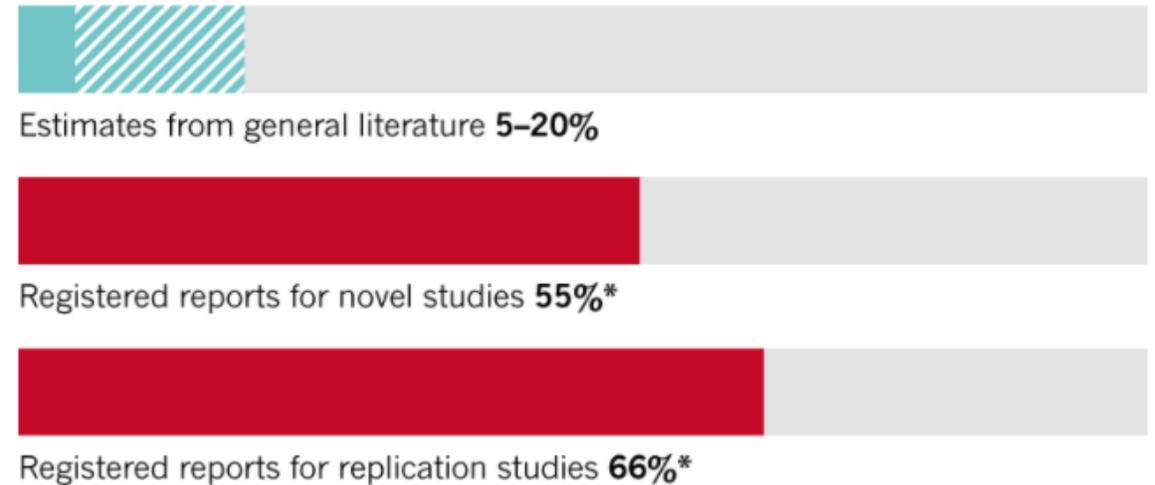




# Benefits of preregistration



## HYPOTHESES NOT SUPPORTED BY RESEARCH PAPERS (%)



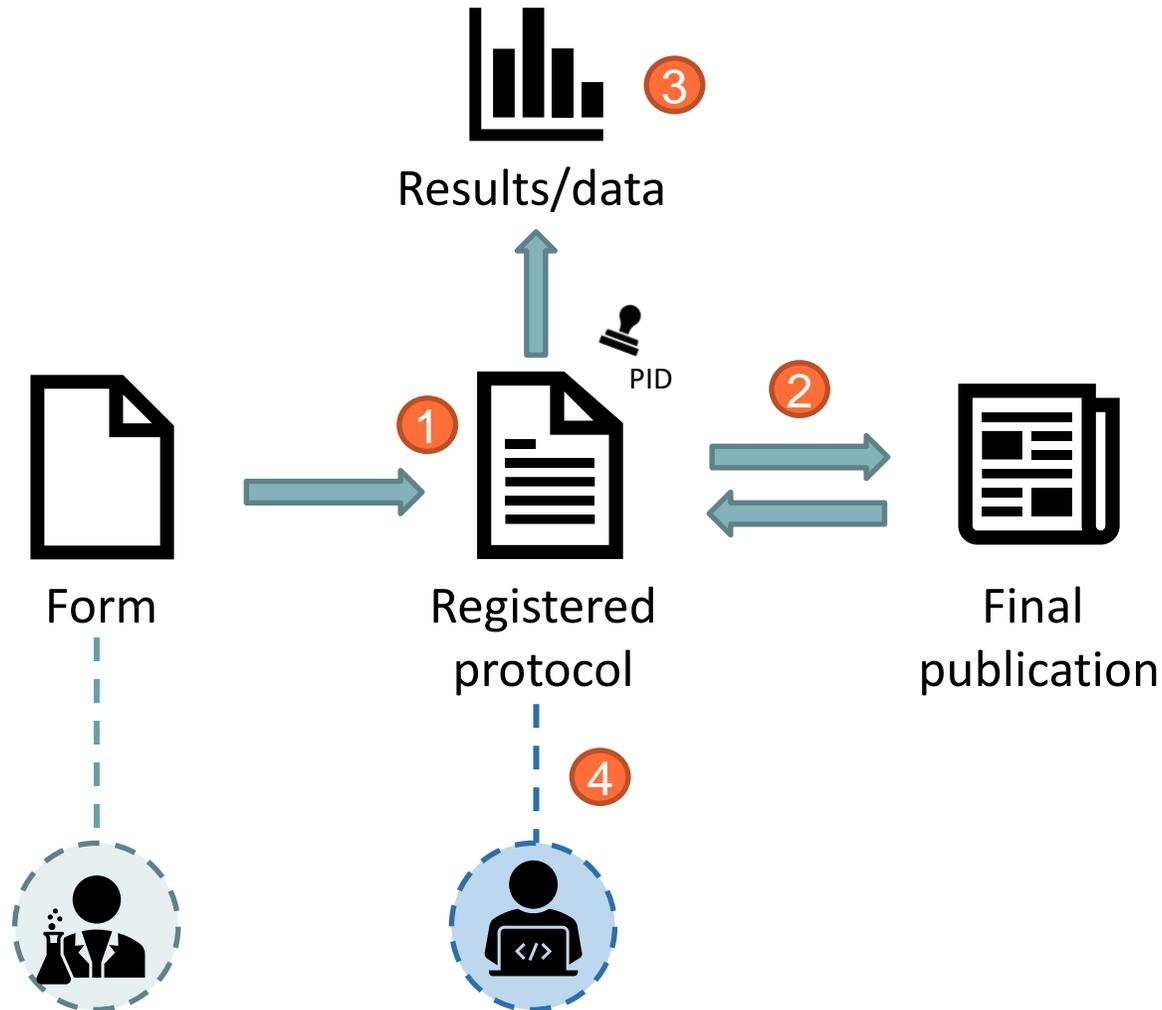
©nature

\*Sample size: 296 hypotheses across 113 studies in biomedicine and psychology

Source: Allen, C. & Mehler, D. Preprint at PsyArXiv <https://psyarxiv.com/3czyt> (2018).



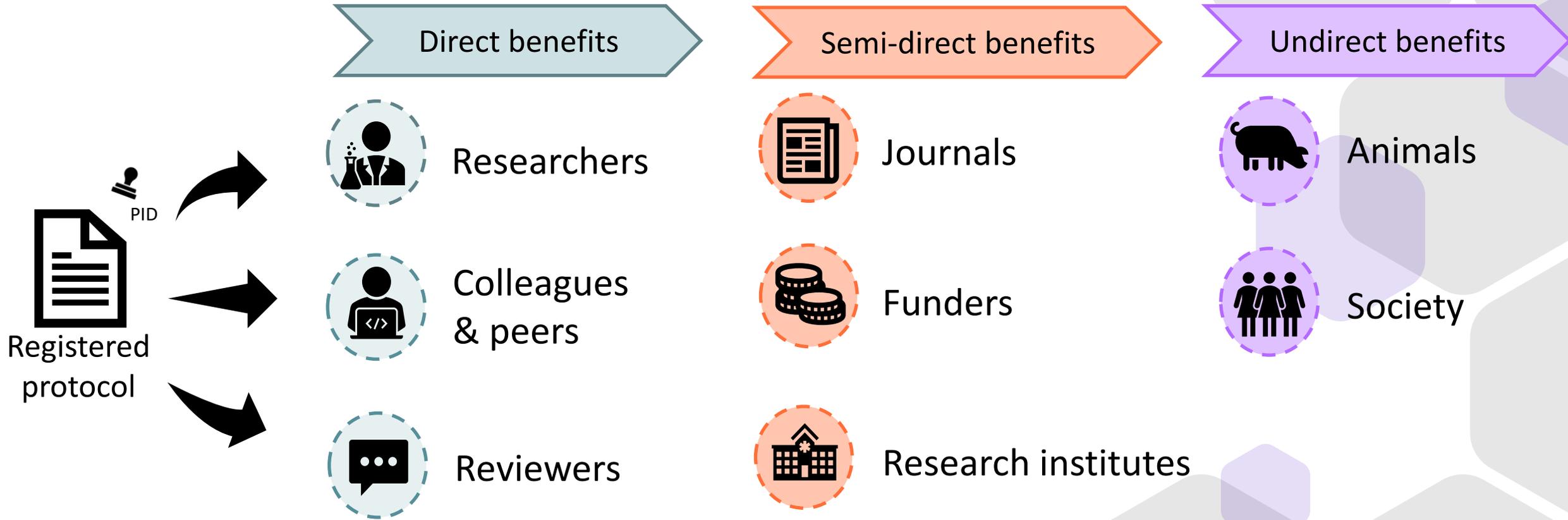
# Benefits of preregistration



- 1 Increase transparency
- 2 Promote robust study design & reporting
- 3 Reduce reporting bias & malpractice
- 3 Reduce publication bias
- 4 Avoid duplication of animal studies
- 4 Help reproducibility



# Who benefits from preregistration?



## Poll n°2

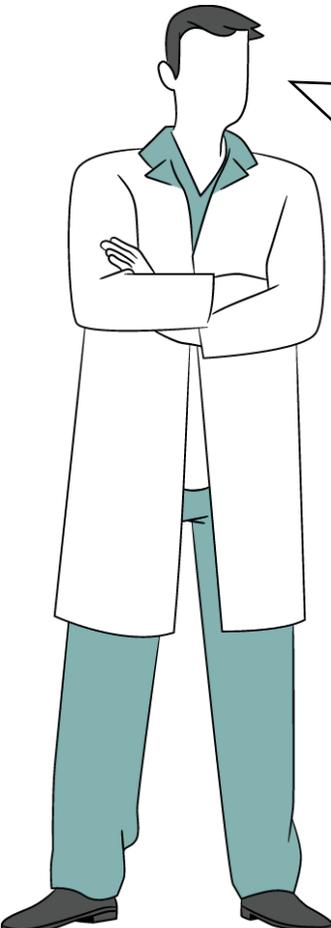
Which concerns would prevent you from preregistering?

Please type your answer in the chat or speak up





## Cost & eligibility



I cannot spend money on preregistration!  
Besides, I'm not even sure my studies would match the registry.



No problem, this platform is **free** to use.  
And they accept all studies using animals.

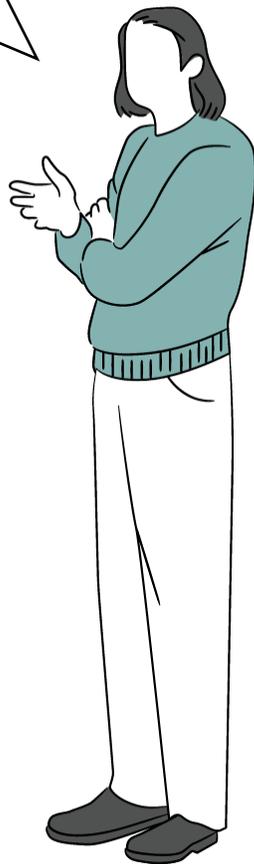
Allow registration at all stages



## Exploratory studies



My research is purely exploratory. This platform is not for me



Wait, all experiments have to be properly planned, right?  
Also exploratory research can fit the format. Just have a look!



# Lack of time

I don't have time for this!  
This is too much effort

The time is well invested.  
A well-planned study can  
save a lot of time later in  
the publication process.



Information  
about their  
protocols



**EXPORT**

Information  
about their  
protocols





## Flexibility

I'm concerned I will be limited in my scientific creativity!

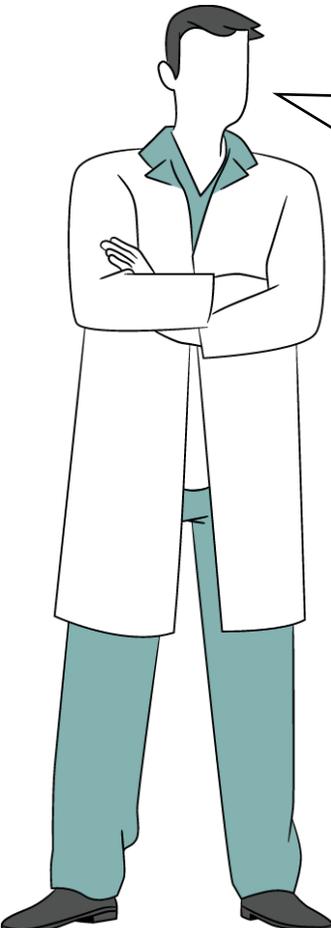
What will happen if my methodology changes?

This platform is tailored to your research & allow flexibility.  
You can amend your protocol at any time.





## Security and intellectual property



I'm afraid to get scooped or that malicious people steal my private information



No worries, your protocol can be protected by an embargo! You get to decide when to make your info public

Embargo: start with 1 year, extendable  
Registrations are anonymous  
Only users can access protocols



## Guidance



I don't know where to start.  
Preregistration seems complex



Do no worry, the process is  
easy.  
There is plenty of guidance  
online!

- FAQ
- How to document
- Guidance hours



## What do you need to preregister

1. An internet connection
2. A study protocol (preferably finished)
3. An account to the registry
4. A little bit of time





## Contact us and check our (social) media



Info@preclinicaltrials.eu

Julia.menon@heart-institute.nl



LinkedIn Profile



Website



Twitter Account



Guidance Hours



Thank you  
for your attention!

**Any questions?**

